

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-01

OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 ACDA-07 SSM-03 /079 W

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R 070553Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2163

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, EG

SUBJECT: MINDEF PERES VIEWS ON SFM

1. AMBASSADOR TOON AND SFM DIRECTOR KONTOS CALLED ON MINDEF PERES ON JULY 6. AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, PERES HEAPED PRAISE ON THE SINAI FIELD MISSION. IN HIS VIEW, NO OTHER ONE SINGLE ELEMENT OF THE SINAI II AGREEMENT HAD DONE AS MUCH AS THE SFM TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN THE SINAI. HE FELT THAT INTERPOSITION OF U.S. PERSONNEL WAS AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT AND HE SPECULATED THAT IT COULD SERVE AS USEFUL MODEL FOR SIMILAR FUTURE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES ON THE GOLAN AND PERHAPS BETWEEN ISRAELI AND JORDANIAN FORCES AS WELL. PERES STRESSED THAT ONE IMPORTANT ADVANTAGE OF U.S. PRESENCE IS THAT IT AVOIDS SEMI-ANNUAL TRAUMA ASSOCIATED WITH RENEWALS OF U.N. MANDATES.

2. PERES ADMITTED THAT IT WAS LARGELY AT HIS INSISTENCE THAT THE ISSUE OF U.S. TECHNICIANS WAS INCLUDED IN SINAI II. HE ASSERTED THAT WHEN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, HE WAS VIEWED BY HIS COLLEAGUES AS THE FATHER OF A VERY UNWELCOME BABY, BUT CLAIMS THAT MOST CRITICS HAVE NOW COME AROUND AND APPRECIATE THE VALUE OF THE SFM.

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3. IN CLOSING, PERES REFERRED TO AN OPINION POLL CONDUCTED BY THE 1976 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GREAT DECISIONS IN UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY. POLL, TABULATED AS OF APRIL 20, 1976, RESULTED IN 6,571 BALLOTS. ON QUESTION OF U.S. TECHNICIANS IN SINAI. 4,450 WERE IN FAVOR, 1,401 AGAINST AND 720 NO OPINION. PERES SEEMED SURPRISED, ALBEIT PLEASED, AT THIS OVERWHELMING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF THE SFM.

TOON

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